

## Message Text

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51

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-05 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01

DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

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R 091303Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8256

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4279

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL TILLMAN/ACHWORTH VISIT

SUMMARY: TILLMAN AND ASHWORTH SAY CROSS SECTION KUWAITI OFFICIALS, OILMEN AND BUSINESSMEN DURING SHORT VISIT. TILLMANSTRESSED NEED FOR ARABS USE POTENT OIL WEAPON WITH CARE LEST STRONG ANTI-ARAB BACKLASH DEVELOP IN U.S. KUWAITIS GRASPED POINT BUT WERE NON-COMMITTAL. THEY INDICATED GOK WAS NOT IN POSITION TO PRESS FOR ANY CHANGE IN ARAB EFFORT AT THIS POINT, AND THAT BASICALLY KING FAISAL WOULD BE CALLING THE SHOTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CONSULTANTS TILLMAN AND ASHWORTH SAW GOOD CROSS SECTION KUWAITI OFFICIALS, OILMEN AND BUSINESSMEN DURING TWO DAY VISIT HERE. WE BRIEFED THEM ON KUWAIT AND GULF DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING STATUS MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. IN OUR BRIEFINGS WE POINTED OUT TENDENCY GOK RELY ON FAISAL TO FORMULATE AND TAKE LEAD IN LARGE INTERNATIONAL OIL  
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POLICY QUESTIONS AND TO FOLLOW CONFRONTATIONSSTATES,

PARTICULARLY, EGYPT, ON ARAB-ISRAEL MATTERS. RE  
LATTER KUWAIT PREFERS NOT GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH  
NON-ARAB STATES.

2. TILLMAN TOLD KUWAITIS OIL EMBARGO CAUSING SERIOUS  
PROBLEMS IN US, BUT IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR USG OR AMERICANS  
IN GENERAL TO GIVE IN TO WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS BLACKMAIL.  
TILLMAN URGED ARABS USE OIL WEAPON WITH DISCRETION AND  
DELICACY AND SAID HE FEARED STRONG ANTI-ARAB BACKLASH  
IN WEST. HE SAID HE DISAGREED WITH ARABS WHO DESCRIBED  
THEMSELVES AS WEAK. HE SAID THEY MUCH STRONGER THAN THEY  
REALIZED AND WERE, THEREFORE, OBLIGATED ACT RESPONSIBLY  
IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

3. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE KUWAITIS UNDERSTOOD POINT TILLMAN  
TRIED TO MAKE. THEY DID NOT SHOW INCLINATION TO ACT  
ACCORDINGLY. THEIR REMARKS RATHER INDICATED THEY CON-  
SIDERED THEMSELVES "LOCKED IN" TO UNIFIED ARAB EFFORT,  
LED BY FAISAL, AND THAT THEY WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO  
SUGGEST ANY CHANGE IN IT AT THIS POINT. AT ROOT OF  
KUWAITI RESPONSE TO TILLMAN'S POINTS IS WEARINESS WITH  
WORDS AS DISTINCT FROM SPECIFIC, TANGIBLE ACTION--WHICH  
BY THEIR DEFINITION DOES NOT INCLUDE MERE CONVENING OF  
PEACE CONFERENCE. KUWAITIS ALSO DEEPLY SKEPTICAL THAT  
ISRAELIS WILL GIVE ON ANY POINT. AS FAR AS THEY CAN SEE,  
IT IS ARABS WHO HAVE MADE ALL CONCESSIONS WITH NOTHING  
COMING FROM OTHER SIDE.

4. COMMENT: AS WITH RECENT VISIT SENATOR MCCLURE,  
TILLMAN AND ASHWORTH HAD NO TROUBLE SEEING KUWAITIS WHOSE  
MANNER WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY, FURTHERMORE, KUWAITIS  
SPOKE OF FUTURE WHEN SUCH POSITIVE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL  
PROJECTS AS DOWNSTREAM INVESTMENTS AND INCREASING OIL  
SALES TO US CAN BE WORKED OUT. BUT, FOR NOW KUWAITIS

ARE NOT ABOUT TO SUGGEST ANY DIMINUATION OF THE ARAB  
EFFORT.  
STOLTZFUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU, XF  
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